

one-fourth of the evaporating surface of drains was under the control of the commissioners from sewers, as one-fourth arose from cesspools, and the remaining two-fourths from house drains.

The Earl of Carlisle said there was considerable odour from the drains at the end of the term to which he was called by his duties, and wished to know if there was any method of trapping them to meet the evil.

Mr. Chadwick said a plan for this purpose was before the Committee, but the difficulty was, that in trapping the drains, the gases were forced into the houses. In fact the offensive gases had been driven from the mouth of the sewer in the Thames as far back as Islington, at which point the sewers were perfectly clean.—The question was referred to the survivors.

Miscellaneous.

THE IRON TRADE.—In the face of the recent general stultification of the authority of the old quarterly meetings, a renewed attempt is being made, on the old model, to patch it up once more. The *Times*, for instance, lately so justly sickened with the general want of dependence to be placed on such an authority as a faithful index to the state of the trade at large, is now assured, notwithstanding the general repudiation of that authority by the trade itself, that "the first-rate firms, such as" and so advertised, "invariably adopt and maintain the prices fixed at quarterly meetings, but the small and needy houses [all in short who dared to question the authority of those who set themselves up as the *élite* were "small and needy houses," who] during the quarter, not unfrequently, as heretofore, make reductions to suit exigencies." This used-up mode of enforcing a tyranny by threats of a stigma, however, is now unavailing. The old quarterly nurse of "high prices" and "great masters" may quote her authority—*ad infinitum*; but the Gaump game is up. That authority was recently found out to be nowhere, and it is too late now to give it a local habitation and a name. To stigmatize the trade at large—which did recently repudiate both the old quarterly and her authority,—as "small and needy" is going rather far. Even an *Ad* advertisement of—so and so—first-rate firms, the attempt is futile. As to late proceedings and present prospects, what says one of the most respectable of the old advocates of high prices, one whose own very words are now being used about "small and needy" houses alone selling at comparatively low prices? "During the late quarterly meetings," says this veteran advocate of "great masters," *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, "the apprehensions we last noticed of a further decline in prices have unfortunately been realised, and the nominal rates concluded upon at the preliminary deliberations of the iron masters, at Handsworth, have been altogether disregarded—still no accession of activity has ensued," &c. It is high time, then, that the trade at large—with which the quarterly faction of this split camp can no longer be identified since it stigmatizes all but itself as not only "small and needy" but as sellers of "an inferior quality" of iron—were preparing to appoint some new and honest and less impracticable index, since even the very highest upholder of the old quarterly dictum now repudiates its authority altogether.

ERRORS IN AWARDS.—In an arbitration between a builder at March, as plaintiff, and certain commissioners of the White Fen district in Benwick, the arbiter, an architect at St. Neot's, had inadvertently omitted formally to award a sum of 257l. for extras to the plaintiff, about which there was no dispute; but afterwards intimated the inadvertence to the defendants, and gave affidavit thereof. The defendants, however, insisted on the strict and literal terms of the award, and argued before Lord Denman, that the decision ought to be sustained, "it being a principle not to disturb awards which on the face of them appear correct." His lordship said, that if a straining in the law as to such decisions was ever justifiable, it was in this case, otherwise a great and obvious injustice would be done to the plaintiff, and after making some strong remarks on the conduct of the defendants in seeking to take advantage of such an error, his lordship made the rule absolute for setting aside the award.

OSMASTON MANOR-HOUSE, DERBYSHIRE. is a great pile of building, comprising, besides numerous suites of apartments, a wilderness of corridors, galleries, arcade, towers, chapel, school, riding school, conservatory, tennis court, bakery, laundries, dairies, kitchens, stables, coachhouses, and all sorts of other appliances, scientific, economical, and convenient. The pile has been already about three years in building, and is not yet completed, although the proprietor, Mr. Wright, and his numerous family, have recently got access to a portion of it. The whole, with some little exception, is fireproof, and comprises extensive arrangements for heating, smoke conduction, &c. All the smoke from every quarter of the buildings is collected by flues into a tunnel 600 feet in length, which conducts it underground, through a very extensive range of cellars, to a smoke tower in the kitchen garden, 21 feet square and 150 feet high, with an iron staircase to the top and a circular brick shaft within. Along the same line of cellars is a railway, 300 feet long, with curves, turntables, &c., and a coal lift, with hydraulic machinery for lifting through four stories in height. Water, heated by five boilers, weighing 15 tons, is conducted all over the premises by four to five miles of pipes. Under the dining-room is a cistern for 30,000 gallons of water. In the cellars alone, including wine cellars with strong doors, are about a million and a quarter of bricks, and throughout the buildings are 350 tons weight of cast-iron, in girders and other heavy castings. At the west corner of the mansion stands the fresh-air tower, 65 feet in height. There are also a flag tower and a clock tower,—in all, four massive and conspicuous towers imbedded in the mass of building. The east side of the mansion occupies an elevation 333 feet in length. Domestic processes, such as washing, spit turning, &c., are done by machinery, worked by a large water-wheel. At a pond three pumps, also worked by water power, force water up hill into the reservoir from which the house is supplied. The design of the building, which has been executed in sombre blue limestone, relieved by gritstone doorways, window jambs, moulds, and ornaments, is by Mr. J. H. Stevens, of Derby, and the main part of the works have been done by workmen employed by Mr. Wright himself. At a substantial entertainment lately given by the latter to the former and their wives, &c., nearly 600 persons assembled, and a splendid Bible and Prayer Book were presented in the name of the workmen to their employer, who thanked them in an unpretending speech, replete with kindly feeling. A silver inkstand was at the same time presented to the Rev. W. B. Hayne, who had lectured to them every Wednesday during the progress of the works. The village and its church and school are also chiefly of recent construction, the whole being intended, as we are told, to form a sort of model village.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.—We have occasionally drawn attention to Mr. Whishaw's exertions in the promotion of telegraphic communication, and recently had an opportunity of glancing over a variety of his arrangements in the Music-hall, Store-street, among which were exhibited many details that certainly seemed well adapted to facilitate the end in view. The French Government Commission appointed to proceed to London and examine the various systems of electric telegraphs here, would do well to visit and examine Mr. Whishaw's modifications and inventions. We may mention that the Metropolitan Central Terminus of the English line of telegraphs is to be put into immediate communication with the General Post-office, by an extension of the wires to St. Martin's Le Grand, and that the first Irish line of telegraph has just been constructed on the Great Southern and Western Railway for a couple of miles from the Kingsbridge terminus.

PATENT DECORATIVE GLASS.—We mentioned when speaking of one of Lord Rosse's soirées, some specimens of this glass. Since then we have had an opportunity of seeing something more of it. The process employed gives representations of net or other curtains with decorative borders, lace patterns, and bunches of flowers, and the singular cheapness of the glass thus prepared will doubtless lead to a considerable use of it.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 31st inst., for the erection of a new workhouse for the Truro Union, Cornwall; by 24th, for paving that part of the New-road, west of Tottenham-court-road, in the parish of St. Pancras, with granite cubes; by Aug. 2nd, for the erection of a new church at Blendworth, Hampshire; by 21st inst. for the several works to be performed in erecting witnesses' rooms, &c. at the Grand Jury Chamber, Winchester; by 24th, for the erection of schools at Harlow; by a date not specified, for alterations at No. 125, Lower Marsh, Lambeth; by 24th, for painting at Chelmsford Workhouse, &c.; by 25th, for a supply of British iron, steel, and rasps, paint, &c., for the East-India Company; and by 26th, for the re-construction of the drainage and water supply and for alterations, &c., at Cuckfield Workhouse.

AGENCY ON TRANSFER OF ESTATES: DOUBLE DEALING.—An action was recently brought before the Lord Chief Baron, on the home circuit, by Mr. Austin, a house agent in Conduit-street, Hyde-park, against Mr. Spear, a party for whom he had purchased an estate named Craven-hill Lodge, at Bayswater, for his commission of 2½ per cent. on the sale. The plaintiff's claim was resisted on the ground that he had no sooner contracted with the defendant than he went to Mr. Lahee, the well-known eminent house-agent, and offered to provide a purchaser for the same property, on condition that he would give him a commission on the part of the owner, for whom Mr. Lahee acted, and that he had accordingly contracted with Mr. Lahee for 25l., the full half of Mr. Lahee's own fee, offered by the seller. The Chief Baron, in summing up the case, characterised the plaintiff's conduct as unjustifiable and dishonourable, and said he had no doubt that he had thus in law done away with the original contract. The jury were of the same opinion, and the plaintiff, therefore, by running with the hare and hunting with the hounds, lost both his case and his character, a verdict being at once returned against him.

ART-UNION OF LONDON.—If there be not 20,000 subscribers to the London Art-Union for this current year we shall be surprised. The council have obtained the completed plates by C. W. Sharp and W. D. Taylor, of Webster's capital pictures, "The Smile" and "The Frown." These will be delivered on payment of the subscription; and those who subscribe earliest will get the best impressions. In addition to these every member will receive a series of etchings from original drawings, illustrating Shakespeare's "Seven Ages," by D. Maclise, R.A., and still have a chance in the general distribution of prizes. When we tell our readers that the pair of plates after Webster alone were originally to have been published in the ordinary way at two guineas the pair, if we are correctly informed, the programme must be considered a tempting one. This arrangement, too, will enable the council to be similarly in advance for future years, and, if we mistake not, will gain for the society, and, consequently, for art and artists, even more extended success than that which it has enjoyed for the last thirteen years.

FALL OF HOUSES.—At Goulston-street, Whitechapel, facing the East London Baths and Washhouses, two of a row of seven or eight lofty houses, all occupied, suddenly fell into a complete wreck on Sunday forenoon, burying occupants and furniture, the former much injured, though none killed; and the whole of the remainder of the row showing signs of also falling, the tenants were prudently ordered out without even being allowed to save their furniture. The giving way of the walls of a cesspool are supposed to have led to the fall. But sometime back one of the same row came down and destroyed several persons.—At Westminster, too, on Thursday week, three houses in Strutton-ground, corner of Artillery-row, fell in with all their furniture, &c., after a loud crackling noise had given the inmates warning to save their lives.

THE SEWERS OF LONDON.—The report on the subterranean survey of the metropolitan sewers, has just been published, and shews that the majority of them are in a very foul and, in many cases, dangerous state.—A Bill to amend the new Sewers' Act has been read a second time.